



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

**Taiwanese man admits being covert agent of Chinese government and plotting to export U.S. cruise missiles and military aircraft engines to China**  
**-- Man also pleads guilty to charge of attempting to bribe his way out of Florida prison --**

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Jesus Torres, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Daniel F. Willkens, Acting Director, Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), Robert E. Harris, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Southeast Field Office, today announced a guilty plea in a significant plot to export U.S. missiles and military aircraft engines to China

Defendant, **Ko-Suen Moo**, of Taipei, Taiwan, today pled guilty to being a covert agent of the People's Republic of China, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 951; conspiracy to broker and to export defense articles to the People's Republic of China, including one F-16 aircraft engine, Blackhawk helicopter engines, cruise missiles and air-to-air missiles, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778; and bribery of a public official, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(1)(A).

"The fact that this individual was plotting to purchase advanced U.S. cruise missiles for a foreign government is truly alarming. This case demonstrates, in the clearest terms possible, the need to protect sensitive U.S. technology from illegal foreign acquisition," said Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "ICE is proud to have worked with its federal law enforcement partners to thwart this dangerous plot."

United States Attorney R. Alexander Acosta stated, "The illegal export of military technology and equipment threatens our national security in the most direct way. Moo both threatened our national security by illegally negotiating the purchase of F-16 and Blackhawk engines, air-to-air missiles and air-to-ground missiles for delivery to the People's Republic of China, and, when caught, tried to undermine our system of justice by attempting to buy his way of jail. Thanks to the hard work of the agencies involved, both plots failed and Moo will face a lengthy term of imprisonment. American security and justice are simply not up for sale."

DCIS Acting Director Daniel F. Willkens said, "The illegal export of U.S. military technology and weapons is one of the most significant and growing threats to our national security. This investigation highlights the achievements of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, in

cooperation with Federal law enforcement and intelligence agency partners, in countering these threats. DCIS will continue to relentlessly pursue those who steal and illegally export our sensitive technology, to ensure that America's Warfighters maintain their tactical and strategic advantage around the world."

Sentencing has not yet been scheduled by U.S. District Court Judge Donald Graham. At sentencing, Moo faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five (5) years on the conspiracy count, a maximum term of ten (10) years on the charge of failing to register as a foreign agent, and fifteen (15) years on the bribery count. He also faces fines totaling \$2 million. In addition, he has agreed to forfeit his interest in approximately \$350,000 that was seized during the investigation of this case.

### **Missile / Aircraft Engine Plot:**

According to in-court statements during the change of plea hearing, since at least February, 2004, Moo and others had been negotiating for the acquisition of numerous defense articles for illegal delivery to the People's Republic of China. These items included F-16 engines, Blackhawk helicopter engines, AIM 120 air-to-air missiles and AGM-129 air-to-ground cruise missiles.

During the negotiations for this equipment, Moo traveled to the United States on two occasions. During one of these trips, Moo actually inspected an F-16 aircraft engine and wire transferred \$140,000 to cover transportation fees for the delivery of the F-16 engine to an airstrip located inside the People's Republic of China.

During the change of plea hearing, prosecutors stated that on numerous occasions during the course of the conspiracy and even after his arrest, Moo told cooperating witnesses that he was an operative working at the direction and control of the People's Republic of China.

He further disclosed that the acquisition of the F-16 engine was to be a test purchase, which if successful, would commence a long-term relationship during which Moo, on behalf of the People's Republic of China, would acquire other items -- including Blackhawk helicopter engines and air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles. At present, the United States does not sell restrictive military equipment to the People's Republic of China.

### **Bribery Attempt:**

According to documents and statements made in court, after his arrest on the underlying arms charges, Moo engaged in conversation with two inmates at the Federal Detention Center regarding Moo's ability to bribe his way out of jail and obtain dismissal of the underlying arms charges. Specifically, Moo agreed to pay a bribe to an Assistant United States Attorney and a federal judge for his supposed release from custody and dismissal of the pending charges. Unbeknownst to Moo, however, the two inmates had contacted law enforcement and alerted them to Moo's plan.

This separate obstruction investigation led to the return of a superseding indictment charging Moo with, among other things, bribery of a public official. Moo actually wire transferred \$199,985 as

part of a \$500,000 pay off to an unnamed public official in anticipation of his supposed release and dismissal of the charges.

Mr. Acosta commended the investigative efforts of the ICE and the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Allyson Fritz, Daniel L. Rashbaum, Jacqueline Arango and William Healy, with assistance from the Counterespionage Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*